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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,322	07/17/2002	Lutz Axel May	6770-6	3581
7590	05/16/2005			
Blank Rome LLP 600 New Hampshire, N.W. Washington, DC 20037				EXAMINER MILLER, TAKISHA S
				ART UNIT 2855
				PAPER NUMBER DATE MAILED: 05/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/049,322	MAY, LUTZ AXEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Takisha Miller	2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11, 15-19, 22-24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-11, 15-19, 22-24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11,13-19,22-24,26,27,29 and 30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-11,15-19,22-24,26,27,29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones (6,513,395) in view of Hidetoshi (JP5-122896).

a. With respect to claims 1 and 6, Jones teaches a transducer element for a torque or force transducer comprising a member (2) having a structure (6,10,12) which extends generally radially of an axis to transmit a stress between a radially inner region (6) of the structure (6,10,12) and a radially outer region (12), and at least one region (10) of permanent magnetization disposed between said inner (6) and outer (12) regions to be responsive to the transmitted stress and emanate a stress-dependent magnetic field (Col. 3, lines 43-50). Jones lacks teaching the at least one region of permanent magnetization is predominantly axially magnetized. Hidetoshi teaches at least one region (4) of permanent magnetization that is predominantly axially magnetized (Fig.1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Jones to include a predominantly axially

magnetized region of permanent magnetization as taught by Hidetoshi in order to more effectively control position and enhance the measuring possibilities of the torque transducer.

b. With respect to claim 2, Jones teaches a transducer element in which there are two magnetized regions (26,28), a radially inner region (6) and a radially outer region (12) between which a stress-dependent field is established (Col.4, lines 14-17)(Fig.3).

c. With respect to claim 3, Jones teaches a transducer element in which the or each region (26,28) of permanent magnetization is arcuate (having a curved form) with respect to said axis (Fig.3).

d. With respect to claim 4, the shape of the region of permanent magnetization, i.e., interrupted annulus, absent any criticality, are only considered to be obvious modifications of the shape of the region of permanent magnetization (10) disclosed by Jones as the courts have held that a change in shape or configuration, without any criticality, is within the level of skill in the art as the particular shape claimed by Applicant is nothing more than one of numerous shapes that a person having ordinary skill in the art will find obvious to provide using routine experimentation based on its suitability for the intended use of the invention. See In re Dailey, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976).

e. With respect to claims 5 and 23, Jones teaches a transducer element in which the or each region (26,28) of permanent magnetization is annular (shaped like a ring) and encircle said axis (Fig. 3).

f. With respect to claims 7 and 18, Jones teaches a transducer element in which said member (2) has a generally disc structure (Fig.4; Col. 8, lines 14-17).

g. With respect to claims 8,10 and 22, Jones teaches a transducer element in which there are two regions (26,28) of permanent magnetization, each being magnetized in an axial direction and the polarities of magnetization of the two regions (26,28) being opposite (Col. 4, lines 31-33).

h. With respect to claims 9 and 11, Jones teaches a transducer element comprising a means to close a flux path between the two regions (Col. 6, line 64 – Col. 7, line 6).

i. With respect to claims 15-17, Jones teaches a transducer system comprising a transducer element which is subjected to stress generated between said radially inner and outer regions of said structure through said at least one magnetized region (26,28) to emanate a torque-dependent magnetic field, and a sensor system comprising one or more magnetic field sensors (16) to provide a signal representing the stress generated between one and the other of said radially inner and outer regions (Col.6, lines 55-60).

j. With respect to claim 19, Jones teaches a transducer system in which said one or more magnetic field sensors (6) is disposed and oriented to detect a circumferential magnetic field component and provide a signal representing the same (Col. 6, lines 55-60).

k. With respect to claims 24 and 26, Jones teaches a torque or force transducer assembly comprising first (6) and second (12) members coaxially disposed, said first (6) member being of greater diameter than said second member (12), a disc-shaped member (10) extending generally radially of said axis and connecting said first member (6) to said second member (12) for transmitting force from one member to the other. The disc-shaped member (10) comprising two magnetized annular regions (26,28) that are at least arcuate or annular or are part annular (Figs. 1,3).

1. With respect to claim 27, Jones teaches a transducer assembly which is adapted to transmit torque from one of said members to the other (Abstract, lines 10-14).

m. With respect to claims 29 and 30, Jones teaches a transducer assembly comprising first (6) and second (12) members mounted to cause flexing of a disc-shaped member (10) in response to a relative displacement of said first and second members (Col. 3, lines 18-28).

5. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones (6,513,395) in view of Hidetoshi (JP5-122896) as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Goldowsky (4,379,598).

a. With respect to claims 13 and 14, Jones in view of Hidetoshi teach a transducer element comprising a single region of magnetization (23) but lacks teaching the single region of magnetization extending obliquely to an axis. Goldowsky teaches a single region of magnetization (16,22) extending obliquely to an axis (Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jones in view of Hidetoshi as applied to claim 1, to include a single region of magnetization extending obliquely to an axis as taught by Goldowsky in order to have larger diameters at one end than the other to resist axial forces (see Goldowsky; Col. 1, lines 35-40).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (JP8-128445) teaches a thrust magnetic bearing.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Takisha Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-2184. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (7:00 am - 3:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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